From: Nathan Totorica
To: Eligio Lara
Cc: Jesse Silva
Subject: Fw: SWAT OP Recommendation
Date: Tuesday, December 24, 2024 2:41:59 PM
Attachments: 24SWA015NC_318West122324_R122324NCCervantes_R122324NCABLopezRamirez_R122324NCJRLopezRamirez-O"Neil-SEALED.pdf
24-0016556 Workups-SWAT Matrix.pdf
image001.png

Commander Lara,

My mistake, this should've gone to you initially.

Thank you,

Nate

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From: Nathan Totorica <ntotorica@cityofsantamaria.org>
Sent: Tuesday, December 24, 2024 2:38:18 PM
To: Jesse Silva <jsilva@cityofsantamaria.org>
Subject: Fw: SWAT OP Recommendation

Commander Silva,

Please see Sgt. Mathews' recommendation for SWAT warrant service later this week. The investigator's hope is for early Friday morning, but that will be based on surveillance landing

I agree with the recommendation. Sgt. Mathews had several conversations with the DB and learned the priority in this case is the juvenile who resides on West Street. That suspect is believed to be the shooter. Based on him taking priority, SWAT service would be based on surveillance landing him at the location.

Once he is identified at the residence and believed to be in for the night, SMPD SWAT would be activated (respond to station, brief, etc) to serve the warrant. If approved, SBSO would be activated to handle the search warrant in Casmalia. The plan would be for those two services to go as simultaneous as reasonable.

SMPD SWAT would follow up at the Newlove location as long as investigators reasonable believe (associated vehicles on scene, etc) one or both of the associated suspects are home. If intel confirms neither suspect are home, SWAT would not serve the third warrant.

Please let me know once approved so that I can notify our TL's to start prep. I will also

coordinate with SBSO for their assistance.

Thank you,

Nate

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From: Christopher Mathews <cmathews@cityofsantamaria.org>
Sent: Tuesday, December 24, 2024 2:36 PM
To: Nathan Totorica <ntotorica@cityofsantamaria.org>
Subject: RE: SWAT OP Recommendation

Sorry forgot the attachments…

Chris Mathews, Sergeant
Patrol / Rangemaster / SWAT
(805) 928-3781 x 1210
1111 W. Betteravia Rd.
Santa Maria, Ca 93458

From: Christopher Mathews
Sent: Tuesday, December 24, 2024 12:38 PM
To: Nathan Totorica <ntotorica@cityofsantamaria.org>
Subject: RE: SWAT OP Recommendation

Lt. Totorica,

I have reviewed the warrant service matrix, work-ups, and search/arrest warrants for this homicide investigation involving an AR-15 style rifle. On 12/10/2024 at about 2041 hours, SMPD Officers responded to shots heard in the 300 block of W. Sheila. On scene, officers located a victim down with multiple gunshot wounds to the upper torso. The victim was transported to Marian where he was pronounced deceased. Officers located multiple .223 caliber spent shell casings, indicating the murder victim was likely an assault style rifle.

This is a three location warrant service with two locations being in the City of Santa Maria, and one being on a rural property in Casmalia.

Matrix-

Based upon the facts of the case, our matrix rates this as a **MODERATE-HIGH RISK**. SWAT shall be consulted/considered in these cases.

Location 1:

318 W. Street, Santa Maria, Ca 93458. A single family residence, with multiple outbuildings on the property. There is a search warrant for the residence and a search/arrest warrant for the suspect Jose Armando Camarillo Cervantes. Cervantes is believed to be an active member of the West Park Criminal Street Gang. There is a signed arrest warrant for 187 PC, Murder. Cervantes has had multiple contacts with West Park Gang members, two of his older brothers are in prison for violent West Park Gang related offenses, and he has prior arrest(s) for firearms possession. The SMPD Swat team has served warrant(s) at 318 W. Street on prior violent crimes investigations. Detectives have recently observed Cervantes in possession of an assault style weapon through social media photographs. Cervantes is a student at Righetti High School, but has not been attending, skipped finals week, and school is now out for the holidays.

Location 2:

300 W. Newlove #A, Santa Maria, Ca 93458. A single story, single family residence attached to adjacent single family apartment style residences. Officers/Detectives have served warrants on multiple prior occasions at this residence, during which firearms parts and ammunition were located. There is a search warrant for the premises, and a search/arrest warrant for the suspect Jesus Lopez-Ramirez for 187 PC, murder. Jesus is believed to be an active West Park Gang member, and the younger brother of multiple West Park Gang members including Alex Brandon Lopez-Ramirez. Jesus has been contacted and arrested in possession of a firearm in the past. Alex has a violent criminal history and a history of firearms possession, including an arrest for a shooting in Santa Maria in 2024. The residence is located in the “Little Tiajuana or TJ’s” a strong hold for the West Park Gang with numerous prior shootings/homicides, and residents whom are unfriendly with law enforcement. Additionally, a family member is believed to live next door at apartment #B (not listed on the warrant). A tracker has been placed on Jesus’ vehicle and Detectives are up on phone pings for Jesus’ phone. Jesus is believed to work at Vallarta Supermarket.

Location 3:

2995 Associated Rd, Casmalia, Ca 93429. A single family residence located on a 54 acre rural property. There are multiple dwellings on the property located on a one-way-in, one-way-out style road. The residence appears to have surveillance cameras, and is set on a long driveway, behind an oil pipe fence and gate to the front of the residence. Cell phone evidence indicates that the suspects went to 2995 Associated Road after the homicide. It is believed that this is a “stash house,” and where evidence, including the AR-15 rifle is likely located. The residence

belongs to a brother of Jesus Lopez-Ramirez.

Contingencies:

Serving search warrants at a residence wherein other people are present always poses certain risk. Albeit unlikely, the possibility of a warrant service turning into something more sinister (barricade, hostage, etc) needs to be considered and planned for as a contingency. SWAT is better equipped and trained to deal with these types of situations that change in the moment and create a different mission profile.

Due to the above intelligence, I believe the SWAT Team(s) SHOULD serve this search and arrest warrants at 318 West Street, 300 W. Newlove and 2995 Associated Road (Casmalia). Night Service has been approved on the signed warrant, as well as the use of UAS technology, and the SWAT Team.

Multi-location consideration:

In speaking to investigators, ideally the three locations are served as simultaneously as possible to preserve evidence of the homicide. The SMPD SWAT Team does not have the resources to serve three locations at once, thus I would request assistance from the Santa Barbara County Sheriff SWAT Team. 2995 Associated Road is located in SBSO jurisdiction and the rural location lends more to SBSO training/equipment. While the SMPD SWAT Team can serve the two City locations (318 West and 300 W. Newlove) simultaneously without assistance.

Respectfully,

Chris Mathews, Sergeant
Patrol / Rangemaster / SWAT
(805) 928-3781 x 1210
1111 W. Betteravia Rd.
Santa Maria, Ca 93458

From: Nathan Totorica <ntotorica@cityofsantamaria.org>

Sent: Monday, December 23, 2024 12:48 PM
To: Christopher Mathews <cmathews@cityofsantamaria.org>
Subject: Fw: SWAT Matrix-Workups 24-0016556 - Sheila Ln Homicide - SW and AW services

For your review and recommendation.

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From: Daniel Rios <drios@cityofsantamaria.org>
Sent: Monday, December 23, 2024 12:33:40 PM
To: Nathan Totorica <ntotorica@cityofsantamaria.org>
Cc: Scott Casey <scasey@cityofsantamaria.org>
Subject: SWAT Matrix-Workups 24-0016556 - Sheila Ln Homicide - SW and AW services

Nate,

Attached are the workups/matrixes and DA signed warrant for three locations (two in Santa Maria City, one in Casmalia) and three suspects we discussed last week. I did not include the criminal histories in this summary, but hard copies are available in the DB packet on my desk.

The primary homicide suspects are Jose Armando Camarillo Cervantes and Jesus Lopez-Ramirez. Jose was arrested in October 2023 for carrying a loaded and unserialized firearm and for violating PC 246.3(a) – negligent discharge of a firearm. Jesus was arrested in June 2024 for carrying a loaded and unserialized firearm.

The third individual, Alex Brandon Lopez-Ramirez, is Jesus' brother and an accessory. Alex resides with Jesus at 300-A W. Newlove. While Alex does not necessarily need to be apprehended during the initial wave of warrant services, his criminal history includes arrests as a juvenile for PC 245(a)(1) – Assault with a deadly weapon and PC 148 – Resisting arrest. As an adult, Alex has been arrested for PC 186.22 – Gang enhancement, carrying a concealed firearm in a vehicle, and in October 2024 for PC 245(a)(2) – Assault with a firearm, along with assault weapons charges tied to the Taco Bell South shooting. During a search at his residence, 300-A W. Newlove, officers recovered two pistols, an assault rifle, and gun parts.

Adjacent to 300-A W. Newlove is 300-B W. Newlove, which is occupied by family but is not included in the current search warrant.

We currently have surveillance working on Jose’s location, with a tracker active on Jesus’

vehicle. A phone ping for Jesus is also in progress.

Warrant is also with a Judge and should be signed today.

Let me know if you have any questions.

Thanks,
Danny

Daniel Rios, Lieutenant

Detective Bureau | Santa Maria Police Department | (805) 928-3781 x1307 | drios@cityofsantamaria.org

SANTA MARIA POLICE
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